

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indication that drawings filed on February 8, 2005, have been approved.

The indication that claims 20 and 24 are drawn to the allowable subject matter is also noted with appreciation.

Claims 15 to 19, 21 to 24, and 26 are currently active in the application. By the present amendment claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 20. Claim 20 has been canceled and Claim 24 has been amended to correct the dependency. Since the present amendment is a mere incorporation of allowable claims into independent claim, no new issues are introduced.

Claims 15-19, 21-23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Carey et al. (U.S. Patent 6,266,218 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed based on the above amendment.

Responding to the rejection, claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 20. In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 20 and 24 are drawn to the allowable subject matter and therefore as amended claim 15 now is distinguishable over the reference to Carey et al. Additionally, the dependency of claim 24 has been amended since 20 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot in a view of the present amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and allow the application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 15 to 19, 21 to 24, and 26 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

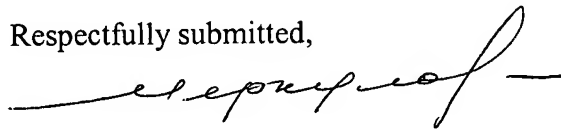
Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Docket 02230028BB
Serial No.: 10/803,144

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A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olga V. Merkoulou', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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